

## **Enclosure One**

### **Water Supply Allocations**

#### **Identified Issues:**

**Future Water Demand.** The Savannah River Basin provides surface water to over 500 users, including public supplies, agriculture and industrial facilities. These users primarily depend on surface water to satisfy current and future demand. Many groundwater users in the lower basin will be forced to utilize surface water supplies to replace groundwater supplies that are experiencing lower quantities and quality. The need for meeting future lower river users requirements stems from the states of Georgia and South Carolina have capped current groundwater use at existing levels, directing that future coastal water supply requirements will be met with surface water from the Savannah River.

As future growth continues it is expected that pressures will mount to use water from the Savannah River Basin to meet water supply needs in neighboring growth centers. Already, 150 million gallons is scheduled for transfer from Lake Keowee to the city of Greenville in the year 2030.

At present, there is no standardized regulation for managing surface water users in an efficient manner; users are regulated by agencies within each state. As demand increases with the high rate of community development that is currently taking place, users will look to surface water supplied by the Federal reservoirs as well as the Savannah River. Increased use of the surface water supply will mandate standardized water management practices.

**Alternative Plans and Evaluations:** The high quality of life offered by the basin is evidenced by the rapid growth in the study area, which indicates that demand for water will increase. Thus, municipal and industrial water use studies would be performed in the feasibility phase. Such studies would be conducted in order to properly assess water demand (which reflects the high growth rates in the basin area) and the ability of current storage allocations to satisfy the demand.

Possible solutions, to be evaluated in the feasibility phase, for satisfying the present and future water demands of communities situated near the reservoirs in the upper basin as well

as those in the lower basin area include the reallocation of lake water storage currently used for hydropower or flood control. An important factor to evaluate when studying the feasibility of reallocation of in-lake water is the benefit of maintaining constant lake levels to preserve recreation and commercial activities. Additionally, in-lake reallocations of storage from hydropower and flood control uses to downstream in-river allocations should be evaluated in the feasibility phase.

Interbasin water transfers may become an option as communities near the Savannah River Basin continue to develop. The feasibility of future interbasin transfers and regulating those transfers should be evaluated.